**ACTING MINISTER OF PLANNING AND STRATEGIC INVESTMENT
AND ACTING PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE FUND**

AGIO PEREIRA

OPENNING REMARKS

**SECOND WORKSHOP ON THE FEASILIBITY STUDY:
INFRASTRUCTURE FUND PROJECTS**

**AUDITORIUM XANANA GUSMÃO
MINISTÉRIO DAS FINANÇAS, AITARAK LARAN
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Good morning and welcome to all distinguished speakers and participants.

A very special welcome to our guests from JICA who have supported the Feasibility Study Guideline development since 2016 and also have assisted in the organization of this workshop. Thank you.

The Government established the Infrastructure Fund in 2011 to better support the implementation of the Strategic Development Plan for 2011 – 2030.

Since 2011, more than 1,600 projects from 22 strategic programs were considered in the Infrastructure Fund portfolio. Many projects have been concluded and many more are ongoing.

In February 2017, a draft of the Feasibility Study Guideline was presented during the first workshop. In the following two years, the Secretariat of the Major Projects had the opportunity to test the Guideline on several pilot projects and consequently to improve and update it, from a practical point of view, using lessons learned.

As we all know the development and implementation of infrastructures require substantial funds and a great national effort. Around 30% of our annual budget is allocated for building and maintaining strategic infrastructures. But our financial resources are limited and the Government must prioritize projects and plan accordingly to ensure national priorities are met with quality and within reasonable time and cost.

Except for rare exceptions, the infrastructure projects are long term projects and have a high cost. Therefore, the feasibility study stage is crucial and intends to assure they meet national standards, namely:

- To improve projects planning and decrease cost;
- To reduce risks during the project implementation; and
- To ensure quality of the build infrastructures.

This workshop allows us to better understand the planning process, to be informed of the results of pilot projects and also to present new initiatives retiled to artificial intelligence as a tool and database development.

I am sure that throughout the sessions we will take lessons learned and will debate the next steps needed to improve this process in the future.

Thank you for attending this Seminar and good work.